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Note by the Secretary-General

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* Reports submitted by non-governmental organizations are issued without formal editing.

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1. Association of the Bar of the City of New York (Special; 1997)

I. Introduction

Aims and purposes of the organization: The Association of the Bar of the City of New York ("ABCNY") was formed in 1870 by members of the New York bar to fight corruption in the courts and to "sustain the profession in its proper position in the community, and thereby enable it ... to promote the interests of the public ..." ("Call to Order", Formation of the Association of the Bar of the City of New York, December 1869). Membership in ABCNY is open to lawyers throughout the world. The membership as at 31 December 2008 was 23,000, including lawyers in the New York City area, throughout the United States of America and in over 50 nations. ABCNY continues to work at effecting political, legal and social reforms and maintaining high ethical standards for the legal profession. ABCNY also continues to implement innovative means of helping the disadvantaged. Much of this work is accomplished through its more than 150 committees, each responsible for considering a specific area of the law or the profession. The public good remains one of ABCNY's highest priorities. The Legal Referral Service, jointly sponsored by ABCNY and the New York County Lawyers' Association, provides an array of services aimed at directly serving the needs of the public. The City Bar Justice Center, an affiliated organization, identifies the most pressing legal concerns of New York's neediest and uses novel approaches to address them, often involving the community. ABCNY is governed by its membership, which meets annually, and managed by its Executive Committee, which meets monthly September through June. ABCNY has a President elected by the members who is also the Chief Executive Officer, and a professional staff headed by the Executive Director. ABCNY has 16 committees that focus in particular on the United Nations and its work.

II. Contribution to the work of the United Nations

Throughout the year, ABCNY organized and held solely or in cooperation with one or more entities, more than 200 forums, programmes, seminars and other events and over 150 continuing legal education programmes. ABCNY committees issue over 100 reports per year. Relations between ABCNY and the United Nations are overseen and coordinated by ABCNY's United Nations Committee. ABCNY is represented at the United Nations in New York, Geneva, and Vienna. A partial list of ABCNY's activities relating to the United Nations appears below.

Participation in major United Nations conferences at United Nations Headquarters, New York: (a) thirteenth session of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) Working Group I, Procurement (April 2008); (b) forty-eighth session of UNCITRAL Working Group II, International Arbitration and Conciliation (February 2008); (c) fifty-second session of the Commission on the Status of Women (February-March 2008); (d) attended and hosted reception for participants of UNCITRAL Working Group VI, Security Interests (May 2008); (e) forty-first session of UNCITRAL Session (June-July 2008).

Participation in the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary entities

ABCNY issued at least 15 reports addressing issues of concern to the United Nations and the Council. The reports, prepared by one or more ABCNY committees,

contained both an analysis of legal and policy issues and recommendations for action. The following is a partial list of the subjects of the reports published and circulated among policymakers: (a) recommendation that the Security Council vote to refer the situation in Darfur to the International Criminal Court (February 2005); (b) composition of World Trade Organization dispute settlement panels (August 2005); (c) Colonial continuities: human rights, terrorism, and security laws in India (September 2006); (d) letter to the Secretary-General of the United Nations regarding the responsibility to protect and the role of the Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide (May 2007); (e) Gender-based violence laws in sub-Saharan Africa (October 2007); (f) letter to the United States Congress regarding ratification of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (November 2007); (g) bilateral investment treaties: evolution or regression? (January 2008); (h) report supporting ratification of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (November 2008).

ABCNY presented at least 20 programmes addressing issues of concern to the United Nations and the Council. Each programme listed below brought together speakers with different perspectives to focus on legal issues related to public policy developments. The programmes, held at ABCNY headquarters in New York, were widely publicized and served to educate the public and members of the legal profession. Examples of such programmes were: (a) "The United Nations: Proposals for the 21st Century" (March 2005); (b) "How can renewable energy technology be used to help meet the mandates of Kyoto?" (April 2005); (c) "International Norms in the 21st Century: Development and Compliance Revisited" (October 2005); (d) "Sexual Exploitation in United Nations Peacekeeping: Establishing Accountability" (April 2006); (e) "Assignment of Receivables in Cross-Border Transactions: the United States considers ratification of the United Nations Convention" (October 2006); (f) "The Evolving World of International Law" (October 2006); (g) "History and Development of Islamic Law" (November 2006); (h) "The International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda: A Decade of Justice in Action" (December 2006); (i) "International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea" (October 2007); (j) "Implementation of Article 2 by States Parties of the United Nations Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment" (March 2008).

ABCNY advocated on behalf of lawyers and judges around the world who have been persecuted for their work to defend the rule of law. In November 2007, ABCNY held a rally in support of the Pakistani lawyers and judges who had responded to actions by then-President Musharraf that were undermining the justice system in Pakistan. ABCNY continued to host the annual reception for legal advisers to United Nations Member States during their annual conference in New York.

ABCNY stands ready, whenever called upon, to give such assistance as it is able to the Council and the United Nations. ABCNY values its special consultative status with the Council and its opportunity to contribute to the aims and goals of the Council and the United Nations.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies and/or specialized agencies in the field and/or at Headquarters

ABCNY worked in Kigali in 2007 and 2008, focusing its efforts on addressing issues of gender-related violence. Activities included workshops to inform law

enforcement and advocacy groups of laws and processes designed to protect women from gender-based violence, education programmes on the subject, and the development of checklists to promote compliance with mandated actions and uniformity of response.

2. Foundation for the Refugee Education Trust (Special; 2005)

I. Introduction

The Foundation for the Refugee Education Trust (RET) was created in 2000 by Sadako Ogata, then the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. The mission of RET is to assist communities to meet the educational needs, in the broadest sense, of young people made vulnerable by displacement, violence, armed conflict and disasters. RET provides a continuum of formal and non-formal programmes in post-primary education, classical secondary education, livelihoods and vocational training in marketable trades, teacher training, life-skills training, gender issues, psychosocial needs, human rights, peace education, conflict prevention and mitigation and solutions to other community development challenges. RET also provides a bridge to employment and economic development and to formal tertiary education. Currently, the regional focus is on Afghanistan and Pakistan, Chad and the Sudan, Burundi and the United Republic of Tanzania, and Ecuador and Colombia.

Change in constitution: While the organization's aims and purposes remain the same, an amendment approved by the Swiss legal authorities on 4 May 2007 and by the Foundation Council on 18 May 2007 reduced the body of the Foundation Council from 15 to a maximum of 7 members, eliminated the Executive Council and created a new Strategic Leadership Council consisting of all founding members, including the former United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. The amendment also expanded the potential coverage of the organization's activities with regard to beneficiaries. This allows RET to promote education in the broadest sense for refugees, returnees, internally displaced persons and local communities affected by such displacement, in particular at post-primary levels.

II. Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

Participation in the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary entities

RET did not have the opportunity to participate directly in the work of the Economic and Social Council, although it collaborated with the United Nations through other avenues, such as cooperation with specialized agencies as described below.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies and/or specialized agencies in field and/or at Headquarters: As RET was created by Sadako Ogata, it works closely with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), based on a global memorandum of understanding, in terms of strategic and operational synchronization with the departments of operational support, education and protection at headquarters, at regional and national levels (for example, definition of priorities and complementarities, needs and assets assessment surveys, references of cases and repatriation activities) and from a logistical point of view (for instance, in all its countries of operation, RET complies with UNHCR security

directives; its Africa regional office is hosted by the UNHCR regional office in Nairobi, its Chad office is hosted by the UNHCR sub-office in Abéché, Chad, and the two RET field offices in Ecuador are located in UNHCR buildings in Esmeraldas and Lago Agrio; lending and donation of vehicles).

During the reporting period, RET participated in UNHCR Standing Committee meetings, held annually in June, and annual consultations with NGOs; and the UNHCR pre-Executive Committee and Executive Committee meetings held annually in October. At the UNHCR Executive Committee meeting in October 2006 and the UNHCR annual consultations with NGOs in June 2007, RET made oral statements on the importance of secondary education for adolescents and youth and the roles of post-primary education for over-aged youth, respectively; at the UNHCR annual consultations with NGOs in June 2008, RET introduced its programme in Chad, which empowered youth through a combination of formal and non-formal basic and secondary education; since 2004, RET has had a strategic alliance and executed a memorandum of understanding with the International Bureau of Education of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). RET has been a member of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee global education cluster working group since September 2008 and is also a member of the Committee in Colombia. RET has been an implementing partner of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) in Colombia since late 2008.

Activities in line with the Millennium Development Goals: As exemplified in the description below of its activities by regions, RET undertook initiatives and implemented programmes in support of the right to education (resolution 2002/23 of the Commission on Human Rights on the elimination of obstacles limiting effective access to education) under Goal 2 (Achieve universal primary education) and Goal 3, target 3 (Eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education preferably by 2005, and at all levels by 2015); and the Education for All goals of increasing learning opportunities for youth and adults, improving adult literacy rates by 50 per cent, eliminating gender disparities in schooling and improving all aspects of education quality.

Africa: In 2005, RET carried out two projects in Cape Town and Durban, South Africa, aimed at creating cohesion between the local population and refugees through language and computer skills training. In the forested region of Guinea, near the Liberian border, a RET project was devoted to encouraging self-reliance among Liberian and Sierra Leonean refugees through vocational training. Also in 2005, RET was able to continue and improve its multi-year project in Impfondo and Loukolela (the Republic of the Congo), bringing to life a model realizing synergies between the organization, UNHCR and a local implementing partner with whom RET was building local capacity in eight schools to benefit 3,720 learners and educators.

Throughout 2005, RET continued working with Burundian and Congolese refugees for the third consecutive year of its programme in the United Republic of Tanzania, spanning 33 secondary schools in 12 refugee camps, 3 settlements and 2 urban locations located along the north-western border of the United Republic of Tanzania. The strategic decision to exit the United Republic of Tanzania in 2006-2007 and to conclude the formal secondary school programme in the camps was based on consultations with UNHCR, government donors and the conclusions that it was vital to concentrate on cross-border activities in order to encourage a greater rate of voluntary repatriation of refugees to Burundi, to train the teachers and to improve

the secondary school programme. RET subsequently launched two projects in its cross-border programme, one to train teachers in the camps located along the north-western border of the United Republic of Tanzania to prepare them for their return to Burundi, and another to train teachers in the Makamba, Rutana and Bururi provinces of Burundi. In 2008, RET started a new programme in the Burundian provinces of Ngozi, Kirundo, Muyinga, Cankuzo, Ruyigi, Rutana, Makamba and Bururi, aimed at making repatriation and reintegration a durable reality for Burundian returnees through reconstruction and improvement of infrastructure and equipment at 40 schools. This programme, developed in close coordination with the Ministry of Education of Burundi, was funded by a pool of five Government and private donors. Between 2005 and 2008, RET programmes in the United Republic of Tanzania and Burundi benefited 36,250 learners and educators.

In mid-September 2005, RET launched its new programme in the refugee camps of Eastern Chad (Ouaddaï and Biltine provinces) with a grant from the Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration of the United States Department of State. This programme for young Sudanese refugees proved very successful and, since its inception, has expanded from a non-formal programme in four camps to one that includes not only basic cognitive skills training (in literacy and numeracy), interpersonal life skills, development of teacher training materials, and that is being implemented in 10 of the Eastern Chadian camps through the provision of distance learning for a formal secondary education programme and language classes for Sudanese refugees and local Chadian youth. Between 2005 and 2008, the RET programme in Chad benefited 14,380 learners and educators.

Pakistan and Afghanistan: In 2005, RET launched 11 new projects in Pakistan, preventing the closure of schools throughout the North-West Frontier Province by providing direct material assistance. In 2006 and 2007, with the financial support of the Norwegian Government and its own funding, RET launched a programme for training in livelihoods, literacy and life skills for Afghan refugee girls, war widows and young mothers in Islamabad and Peshawar, Pakistan. RET also launched a new school for young Afghan women who had stopped their secondary schooling because of the war, so that they could resume their secondary education in an accelerated programme accredited by the Afghan Ministry of Education. Two continuing projects provided empowerment to Afghan refugee youth and teachers through experiential approaches to science, bridging the gaps between the need for science teaching materials and the dire financial conditions of secondary schools. Teachers were trained in the use of innovative techniques and science kits containing local materials designed by the teachers themselves so as to be appropriate to the realities of the impoverished schools. Between 2005 and 2008, 14,260 Afghan refugee learners and educators directly benefited from RET programmes in Pakistan. In October 2008, RET relocated its regional office from Peshawar, Pakistan, to Kabul, continuing to manage all programmes for returnee refugees and internally displaced persons in Afghanistan.

Latin America: In 2005, at the invitation of UNHCR, RET launched a comprehensive programme for Colombian refugees and asylum-seekers in and around the towns of Lago Agrio and Esmeraldas in Ecuador with the two complementary aims of improving the access of young refugees to secondary education and the quality of education provided by the secondary schools that accept refugees. In 2006, 2007 and 2008, with support from the Norwegian Government and a private foundation, RET was able to continue its programme in Ecuador to ensure that Colombian

refugee and local vulnerable youth in areas of high return have access to formal secondary education, and to improve the quality of education. This was achieved by assisting beneficiaries in completing the formalities for validation of foreign education documentation, special preparation classes for re-examinations to obtain Ecuadorian school certificates and a scholarship programme to pay school fees and buy small items of equipment. Between 2005 and 2008, RET programmes in Ecuador and Colombia benefited 7,800 refugee and internally displaced youth.

In February 2008, RET launched its regional operations in Colombia, and inaugurated its regional office in Bogota in April 2008. RET's programmes in the Colombian provinces of Antioquia, Nariño and Putumayo were aimed at protecting young internally displaced persons through the provision of educational programmes with the financial support of UNICEF, the International Organization for Migration and the Government of Norway.

3. International Association of Science Parks (Special; 2005)

I. Introduction

The International Association of Science Parks (IASP) was created in 1984. Originally based in France, it moved its headquarters to Malaga, Spain, in 1996 and has been flourishing ever since. The IASP mission is to be the global network for science and technology parks and to drive growth, internationalization and effectiveness for its members. IASP manages a very active network of science and technology park managers and professionals. One of the most important parts of its work is the support and creation of new science and technology parks, which has a special effect in countries with emerging economies.

Main facts and figures to date: Total number of members: 370; countries with IASP members: 73. IASP branch office in Beijing. Presidency changes every two years. IASP has six regional divisions, located in Johannesburg, South Africa (African Division); Singapore, (Asia-Pacific Division); Linköping, Sweden (European Division); Caracas, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela (Latin American Division); Winston-Salem, North Carolina, United States (North American Division); and Rasht, Islamic Republic of Iran (West Asia Division). IASP attaches great importance to its special consultative status because it reflects its commitment to being particularly active in supporting growth and development throughout the world and especially in lesser developed areas.

Change in constitution: Due to legal obligations in Spain, IASP was forced to introduce some amendments to its constitution. Complying with new Spanish regulations, its General Assembly, meeting in Barcelona in June 2007, unanimously approved minor amendments to the IASP constitution. The amendments are purely formal and do not contravene or alter the objectives, mission, governance or structure of IASP. The text of the amended constitution is at the disposal of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations as and when necessary.

II. Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

IASP did not participate in the work of the Economic and Social Council or its subsidiary bodies, major conferences or other United Nations meetings during the

reporting period because its nature and mission require an emphasis on the development of the science and technology park movement and its different components, such as business incubators, entrepreneurship programmes and international networking. IASP fostered development and growth and contributed to reducing the gap between lesser developed nations and wealthy ones. IASP would like to underline that efforts are made to carry out activities not only in the most developed regions, but also in other regions that may need and benefit from its assistance. India is a main focus for development. IASP is looking to continue expanding its African Division and has forged various links in this respect following meetings in Namibia and Johannesburg. Through advice, support and networking, IASP hopes to help innovative communities to become self-sufficient, generate ideas and thus improve their local economy, focusing on partnership for development and environmental sustainability in the process.

Other activities: In September 2008, IASP held its World Conference in Johannesburg, South Africa, on "The role of science parks in accelerating knowledge economy growth — contrasts between emerging and more developed economies". Prior to the conference, a workshop entitled "Fundamentals of Science Park Management" was held in collaboration with UNESCO to examine the key elements involved in the inception, conceptualization, planning and management of a science park, as part of efforts to help and support all those starting out in the science and technology park industry. The workshop was based on an agreement with the UNESCO Division of Science Analysis and Policies of the Natural Sciences Sector to facilitate the attendance of participants from lesser developed countries in the IASP "learning by sharing" training workshop. This agreement was reached within the framework of the UNESCO programme and budget for 2008-2009 (main line of action, promoting policy dialogue and building capacity in the formulation of science and technology policy; activity, university-industry science partnership (UNISPAR) programme). Participants came from 18 different countries, including Botswana, Brazil, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Jordan, Malaysia, Namibia, Nigeria, South Africa, Sweden, Thailand and Zambia. Based on this successful experience, IASP initiated conversations with UNESCO to explore the possibility of organizing this type of workshop on a regular basis. The organization agreed that the workshop should be repeated at next year's conference, to be held in the Republic of Korea. IASP supported their events by disseminating information among all of its members. In 2008, IASP member Knowledge Oasis Muscat (Rusayl, Oman) hosted the UNESCO International Conference and Exhibition on Knowledge Parks in Doha. This was one of the many events that IASP promoted and encouraged. Its commitment to contribute to the growth of emerging economies was reflected by the creation of the IASP Africa Division in 2008 to promote the creation of science and technology parks and business incubators throughout the continent.

In December 2008, a meeting was held in Malaga, Spain, with IASP members interested in creating a network to increase the mobility of technology and management staff of companies located in science parks around the Mediterranean basin. Particular emphasis was placed on the exchange of staff between the northern and southern shores so as to favour integration between southern Europe and northern Africa. This network fostered interregional collaboration aimed at enhancing economic growth within the knowledge economy. The founding partners of the new network are IASP (acting as main coordinator); Parque Tecnológico de Andalucía (Málaga, Spain); 22@Barcelona (Barcelona, Spain); Casablanca Technopark

(Casablanca, Morocco); Science and Technology Park of Crete (Crete, Greece); and AREA Science Park (Trieste, Italy).

From 2005 to 2008, IASP was involved with and held various seminars, conferences and workshops. The XXV IASP World Conference, held in September 2008 (Johannesburg, South Africa), was preceded by the XXIV IASP World Conference, held in July 2007 (Barcelona, Spain) on the theme of key factors for growth and competitiveness and how to achieve creative jobs and companies. At its XXIII World Conference, held in June 2006 (Helsinki), IASP focused on helping innovative companies to succeed and communities to prosper, which is particularly important in developing countries. At the XXII IASP World Conference, held in September 2005 (Beijing), participants discussed the global role and relevance of science parks.

Prior to its XXV World Conference, IASP held a pre-conference luncheon and symposium, that focused on how to use public-private partnerships to improve governance, promote growth and compete in the new knowledge economy. This event was followed by a UNESCO-IASP pre-conference workshop. At the post-conference session, entitled the "IASP Global Water Event" (Pretoria), participants discussed global water issues and how the less developed countries could be assisted by advanced European water technologies. A workshop on technology parks, entrepreneurship and incubation, held from 30 July to 1 August 2008 (San José), was focused on how science parks and incubators can become vehicles for innovation. The IASP Latin American conference on science and technology parks, held in November 2007 (Lima), focused on networking, innovation and entrepreneurship for development, encouraging the spreading of new ideas and companies within the region. In October 2007, the Asian Science Park Association and IASP held a joint conference (Ansan, Republic of Korea) to work on an alliance for technological innovation and regional development. An IASP pre-conference seminar on entrepreneurship, held in July 2007 (Barcelona, Spain) centred its training sessions on how to put theory into practice, a crucial step for any new enterprise, regardless of its location. The IASP Asia Divisions joined together for a conference on science and technology parks in September 2006 (Isfahan, Islamic Republic of Iran), the main themes being how knowledge-based businesses can enhance economic development. The pre-conference event of the XXIII IASP World Conference, held in June 2006 (Helsinki), focused on the key issue of experience and how experienced practitioners could advise and help newcomers. The IASP Enviroparks Cleantech Forum Lahti, held in June 2006 (Lahti, Finland), was a forum aimed at providing a deeper understanding of market development, as well as a business orientation to both investors and cleantech companies. In May 2005, prior to the XXII IASP World Conference on science and technology parks, (Beijing), a pre-conference event was held to explain how to set up a science park and its benefits to the economy and the community.

4. Nigerian Institute of Homeopathy (Special; 2005)

I. Introduction

The Nigerian Institute of Homeopathy was established in 1980 in Enugu, Nigeria, as a national professional, educational, scientific and research non-profit non-governmental organization with the following key areas of interest: (a) teaching and spreading the art

of homeopathy and other forms of alternative medicine; (b) serving as a professional association of homeopaths, for the purpose of networking and maintaining high ethical and professional standards; (c) conducting public benefit research in homeopathy and alternative medicine; and (d) supporting the work of the United Nations through active collaboration with the relevant United Nations agencies and by attending relevant meetings and conferences.

The organization, incorporated on 9 December 1994, was instrumental in lobbying the Government of Nigeria to enact a law recognizing homeopathy and alternative medicine. Since 2005, the Institute has had special consultative status and has expanded its membership to include 400 new individual professional members who were trained by the Institute, for a total of 5,400 members.

II. Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

Participation in the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary entities

2005: United Nations Headquarters, New York — annual conferences of the Department of Public Information for non-governmental organizations (DPI/NGO Conference): (a) Fifty-eighth Conference, entitled "Our challenge, voices for peace, partnerships and renewal", held in September; (b) fifty-ninth Conference, entitled "Unfinished business: effective partnerships for human security and sustainable development", also held in September.

2007: Sixtieth Conference, entitled "Climate change: how it impacts us all", held in September.

2008: (a) Sixty-first Conference, entitled "Reaffirming human rights for all: the Universal Declaration at 60", held in Paris in September; (b) the Institute sponsored two delegates to the fifty-second session of the Commission on the Status of Women. Delegates made oral contributions during question time and the Institute organized a special meeting to inform the public of the outcome of the meeting and to support women's reproductive rights.

At the end of the annual conferences, the Institute organized mini follow-up conferences at its headquarters in Enugu, Nigeria, to inform its members and the local population, including local media, of the outcome of the conferences for further dissemination. These mini-conferences were held annually in September from 2005 to 2008 at Enugu, Nigeria.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies and/or specialized agencies in the field and/or at Headquarters

The Institute collaborated with the World Health Organization, UNICEF and the Ministry of Health of Nigeria to organize national and regional immunization campaigns against poliomyelitis, tuberculosis, diphtheria, measles, meningitis, pertussis and vitamin A deficiency from 2005 to 2008, on the following dates with the following beneficiaries: (a) March 2005 — 150,000 beneficiaries; (b) September 2005 — 10,000 beneficiaries; (c) February 2006 — 45,000 beneficiaries; (d) October 2006 — 50,000 beneficiaries; (e) November 2007 — 100,000 beneficiaries; (f) July 2008 — 2,000,000 beneficiaries; (g) December 2008 — 2,500,000 beneficiaries.

Activities in support of global principles: The Institute, in collaboration with the International First Aid Society, sponsored and celebrated United Nations special

days and events in Nigeria, with the aim of highlighting these special days and events to increase public awareness and understanding. These activities included seminars, workshops and radio and television programmes on the particular days concerned, which are: (a) 7 April: World Health Day; (b) 5 June: World Environmental Day; (c) 8 September: International Literacy Day; (d) 24 October: United Nations Day; (e) 1 December: World Aids Day.

Officers of the Institute volunteered during these special days and events. The Institute, being a research NGO, took interest in supporting the efforts of members to find a nosode that would be useful in treating malaria and sickle cell anaemia. According to the homoeopathic materia medica or pharmacopeia, which is internationally accepted, there are already nosodes and herbs proven to have no side effects that are bring used to treat patients with related ailments. The Institute is sponsoring this specific research, carried out in conjunction with the teaching hospital in Enugu, Nigeria, in which already proven nosodes are used to identify particular nosodes that are very effective and more useful in treating sickle cell anaemia and malaria.

The Institute is affiliated with the International First Aid Society, which holds special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council. The Institute hopes to strengthen its relationship with the United Nations over the next four years.

5. Osservatorio per la Comunicazione Culturale e l'Audiovisivo nel Mediterraneo e nel Mondo (Special; 2005)

I. Introduction

Osservatorio per la Comunicazione Culturale e l'Audiovisivo nel Mediterraneo e nel Mondo (OCCAM) was created by UNESCO in 1997 and was validated as autonomous in 2000, when it created the first Information and Communication Technologies village in San Ramon, Honduras. The project provided broadband connectivity and electronic services for development, including telemedicine, distance education and e-commerce, and was officially presented at one of the most prestigious events devoted to information and communications technologies for development, the first Infopoverty World Conference, held in June 2001 at Università Cattolica in Milan, Italy. Conference participants endorsed the decision to launch the Infopoverty Programme, led by OCCAM, to eradicate poverty through the use of information and communications technologies and innovation in general. From 2005 to 2008, OCCAM further enhanced its efforts in order to bring the benefits of the information society to the most disadvantaged communities of the developing world, such as those in Brazil, Cameroon, the Dominican Republic, Ethiopia, Honduras, Lesotho, Madagascar, Morocco, Pakistan, Peru, Rwanda and Tunisia. OCCAM also organizes the annual Infopoverty World Conference and a number of seminars, workshops and exhibitions to share best practices and programmatic views and to promote the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals through innovative strategies and tools.

II. Contribution to the work of the United Nations

Participation in the work of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary entities: (a) Fifty-eighth annual DPI/NGO Conference, United Nations Headquarters, September 2005; (b) World Summit on the Information Society, second phase, Tunis, November 2005. Organization of the Infopoverty seminar within the World Summit process, where OCCAM was in charge of the television area and brought a 40-person delegation; (c) substantive session of the Economic and Social Council, July 2006, Geneva; (d) high-level segment of the Economic and Social Council, July 2007, Geneva, Switzerland; participated in the Innovation Fair; (e) eleventh session of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development, Geneva, May 2008; (f) co-organized a seminar with the United Nations Global Alliance for ICT and Development; (g) high-level event on the Millennium Development Goals, United Nations Headquarters, New York, September 2008.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies and specialized agencies in the field and at Headquarters

Economic and Social Council, NGO Section: OCCAM is the lead organizer of the Infopoverty World Conference, together with the Global Alliance for ICT and Development, the European Parliament and other international organizations. The 2006 event was held in April 2006 at the United Nations Headquarters in New York, as part of the Economic and Social Council's NGO Forum, and resulted in the approval of the Final Declaration that was submitted to the Council at its substantive session of 2006.

United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the Global Alliance for ICT and Development: participated in most events organized by the Global Alliance; (a) Appointment of the President of OCCAM, Pierpaolo Saporito, as High-level Adviser to the Global Alliance; (b) co-organized the Infopoverty World Conference in 2007 and 2008 on the themes "Harnessing the use of ICTs towards the Millennium Development Goals" and "Low cost — smart technologies to fight poverty and save the planet", respectively, whose strategic guidelines were approved in the final declaration endorsed by participants in the Infopoverty World Conference; (c) creation and leadership of a community of expertise on e-services for development under the mandate of the Global Alliance, thereby increasing its stakeholders. It was formally commended on the occasion of the third meeting of the Strategy Council of the Global Alliance, held in May 2008 in Kuala Lumpur, in the external report prepared by the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs of Syracuse University.

United Nations Public-Private Alliance for Rural Development: Provided support for the activities of the partnership with projects in its two pilot countries, Madagascar and the Dominican Republic (see the report of the Secretary-General to the Economic and Social Council, E/2007/61). In particular, activities in Madagascar, where OCCAM created the first Malagasy ICT Village in the community of Sambaina, resulted in the decision by the United Nations to nominate Sambaina as the first African Millennium Village.

International Telecommunication Union: (a) Signed a letter of intent with the Navajo Nation for the creation of a portal for indigenous people on the occasion of the second phase of the World Summit on the Information Society, Tunis, November 2005; (b) participated in the Connect Africa Summit, held in Kigali in October 2007, where the President of OCCAM delivered a speech; (c) co-organized the Infopoverty World Conference held in April 2008 at United Nations Headquarters, New York.

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO): Submission in 2008 of a project under the UNESCO Participation Programme resulted in the approval of a grant of $13,000 for the implementation of the ICT Village model in Sambaina, Madagascar.

Activities in line with the Millennium Development Goals: (a) **Goal 1: Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger**: Stakeholders, including OCCAM, participating in the most recent sessions of the Infopoverty World Conference called for low-cost, high-technology solutions for development projects and have become active in this field, placing poverty eradication at the core of the activities of the Infopoverty programme. In this regard, OCCAM developed the ICT Village model, created with the support of the project's Advisory Board (comprised of representatives of the relevant international organizations) and subsequently implemented the model in Borj Touil, Tunisia, in 2005 and later in Sambaina, Madagascar, and Santo Domingo Norte, the Dominican Republic. The ICT Village model used information and communications technologies as a development tool and was active in three main fields: education, health and governance. Further, through a number of partnerships, OCCAM was able to support a variety of activities, ranging from the provision of broadband satellite connectivity to digital services (e-services) in the field of phytopathology and veterinary science to promote food security and endogenous development in underserved communities; (b) **Goal 2: Achieve universal primary education**: As part of efforts to support literacy programmes, OCCAM offered distance education courses in Sambaina, Madagascar to teach 998 primary school students how to write using an innovative system of images; (c) **Goal 4: Reduce child mortality; Goal 5: Improve maternal health; Goal 6: Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases**: In 2007, OCCAM trained 87 medical doctors in Antananarivo in the use of ultrasound technology designed to support doctors in developing countries as part of efforts to ensure maternal health and reduce child mortality. The technology facilitated early detection of tuberculosis and pneumonia; (d) **Goal 8: Develop a global partnership for development**: A variety of events were held annually at United Nations Headquarters and in multiple seats connected by videoconferencing technology (from 2005 to 2008, parallel sessions of the Infopoverty World Conference were held at Università Cattolica and Politecnico di Milano, Italy; the International Telecommunication Union, Geneva; Academy of Sciences, Beijing; the United Nations Office in Baghdad; European Commission, Brussels). OCCAM created a network of all stakeholders active in the field of information and communications technology for development and development actions in general, bringing together more than 200 experts annually and creating projects to benefit underserved communities in developing countries. Moreover, OCCAM has worked side by side with United Nations agencies and programmes to ensure that the benefits of the digital revolution and innovation in general reach all such communities.

6. Women's Board Educational Cooperation Society (Special; 2001)

I. Introduction

Aims and purposes of the organization: The broad aim of Women's Board Educational Cooperation Society (Women's Board) is to foster the development of Nigerian women and empower them through education and high labour standards.

Its programmes seek to build personal character, provide employable skills, foster a responsible attitude to work, provide literacy and basic health services in rural areas and strengthen the institutional capacity of non-governmental organizations. The Women's Board organizes the following educational activities: leadership courses for university students and schoolgirls; employable skills in hospitality management for underprivileged young women; courses on setting up bakery and catering microenterprises for women; seminars on business development for women in small and medium-sized enterprises; professional development workshops to improve personal effectiveness of women; community service projects to improve living conditions in rural and suburban areas; and seminars to strengthen and build the capacity of NGOs.

II. Contribution to the work of the United Nations

Participation in the work of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary entities

Participated in the following activities: (a) Forty-ninth session of the Commission on the Status of Women, 2005; (b) Informal interactive hearings of the General Assembly with NGOs, civil society organizations and the private sector, 2005; (c) Fifty-eighth annual DPI/NGO Conference, September 2005; (d) strategic stakeholder forum organized by the United Nations Information Centre, October 2005, Lagos, Nigeria; (e) United Nations Day 2005 celebration organized by the United Nations Information Centre, October 2005, Lagos; (f) Fiftieth session of the Commission on the Status of Women, 2006, New York; (g) at the civil society forum on employment and decent work, June 2006, International Labour Organization, Geneva, the Women's Board presented a paper entitled "Work and development, women and work"; (h) high-level segment of Economic and Social Council, July 2006, Geneva; (i) dialogue on international migration and development organized by the United Nations Information Centre and the Women's Optimum Development Foundation (WODEF), September 2006, Lagos; (j) African Civil Society Forum organized by the Conference of NGOs in Consultative Relations with the United Nations and the African Women's Development and Communication Network, in cooperation with the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, March 2007, Addis Ababa. Two representatives of the Women's Board attended the Forum and presented a paper on creating awareness of human security and the role of the family; (k) Sixtieth annual DPI/NGO Conference, September 2007, United Nations Headquarters, New York; (l) Fifty-second session of the Commission on the Status of Women, 2008, United Nations Headquarters, New York; (m) interactive forum on investing in women and girls, organized by the United Nations Information Centre, the United Nations Development Fund for Women and WODEF, March 2008, Lagos; (n) Civil society forum at the twelfth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, April 2008, Accra; (o) Briefings on the Millennium Development Goals 2008 report organized by the United Nations Information Centre, September 2008, Lagos; (p) International Day of Peace 2008 celebrations organized by the United Nations Information Centre, September 2008, Lagos; (q) "Universal Declaration of Human Rights and human progress: sixty years on", a public lecture organized by the United Nations Information Centre, October 2008, Lagos.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies and/or specialized agencies in the field and/or at Headquarters

In collaboration with the United Nations Information Centre, the United Nations Development Programme and UNICEF, the Women's Board organized a seminar for NGOs on the theme "Assessing the Millennium Development Goals — Five years after", held in 2005 in Lagos. In December 2008, an arts and cultural school outreach event was organized with the United Nations Information Centre and Zonta International, to mark the sixtieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The Women's Board has participated in the following surveys: Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS survey on advocacy capacity, need and potential within civil society organizations in February 2005; World Federation of United Nations Associations and North-South Institute survey on "We the Peoples" 2005 and 2007, both in respect of the Millennium Development Goals; United Nations Institute for Training and Research questionnaire on project management practices in NGOs, 2005; United Nations Non-Governmental Liaison Service survey on its information products in 2006; and the North-South Institute and World Federation of United Nations Associations survey on the universality of human rights to celebrate the sixtieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, in 2008.

Activities in line with the Millennium Development Goals: (a) **Goal 1 — Eradicate Extreme Poverty and Hunger. Target 1**: Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people whose income is less than $1 a day. **Action**: Provided training in the hospitality field to enable secondary school leavers and women of poor backgrounds in Lagos, Ibadan, Enugu and Iloti, Nigeria to obtain employment or start a trade; (b) **Goal 2 — Achieve universal primary education. Target 1**: Ensure that, by 2015, children everywhere, boys and girls alike, will be able to complete a full course of primary schooling. **Action**: Supporting the schoolwork of children in the Oyo, Enugu and Ogun states of Nigeria through holiday classes and extra-curricular activities; (c) **Goal 3 — Promote gender equality and empower women. Target 1**: Eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education, preferably by 2005, and in all levels of education no later than 2015. **Action**: Leadership courses were given to secondary school students and undergraduates in Lagos, Ibadan and Enugu and seminars for women in business were carried out in Lagos to empower them by improving their management skills; (d) **Goal 4 — Reduce child mortality. Target 1**: Reduce by two thirds, between 1990 and 2015, the under-five mortality rate. **Action**: Health services provided to children in Enugu and Ijebu-Ode, Nigeria; (e) **Goal 5 — Improve Maternal Health. Target 1**: Reduce by three quarters the maternal mortality ratio. **Action**: Health Education classes provided to women in Enugu and Ijebu-Ode, Nigeria; (f) **Goal 6 — Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases. Targets 1 and 3**: Have halted by 2015 and begun to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS, and the incidence of malaria and other diseases. **Action**: Seminars on HIV/AIDS and malaria prevention given to girls and women; general medical care given to people in Enugu and Ijebu-Ode, Nigeria; (g) **Goal 7 — Ensure environmental sustainability. Target 3**: Halve, by 2015, the proportion of the population without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation. **Action**: A community borehole was constructed in the village of Iroto and four latrines were installed in Iroto, Abidagba and Ereji in Ogun state, Nigeria.